

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Place: Wollongong Police Station
William Anthony ROONEY - Death of
 Date: 22 October 1986

Name: Stephen George PASSMORE
 (Surname in capitals)
 Address: Wollongong Police Station Tel. No.
 Occupation: Detective Sergeant 3rd Class of Police STATES:-

1. I am aware that if I sign this statement and any part of this statement is untrue to my knowledge, I may be liable to punishment.
2. I have been attached to the Scientific Investigation Section for the past 14 years, during this time I have attended many scenes of alleged crimes, made examinations and taken photographs for production at Court.
3. About 11.05 am on Friday, 14 February, 1986 I went to Crown Lane, Wollongong, where I had a conversation with Detective Sergeant Watson, Constable Tranby and other Police. An area was indicated to me which was between a timber and corrugated iron toilet block and a retaining wall. The staff from L and B Discounts had closed the area where ROONEY was found to wash away the blood. The top of the retaining wall, which was 2.8 metres high, was virtually street level to Crown Lane and was used for staff parking for the shops facing Crown Street. This parking area was of similar height as the roofs of the premises facing Crown Street giving easy access to them. There was a gap just over .5 metres between the retaining wall and the roof of the toilet block. I closely examined the area but was unable to find anything which could assist with determining the cause of ROONEY's injuries. I tested the galvanized ridge capping on the toilet block for blood, even not visible to the naked eye, I got a faint reaction which could have been indicative of ROONEY striking it as he fell. I examined the edge of the concrete block retaining wall but was unable to find anything relevant. There was a timber fence post wedged between the roof of the toilet block and the gutter on the roof of L and B Discounts. A portion of this post was hanging over the edge of the roof. When stood on, it appeared to

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be jammed under the gutter until the full weight of a person's body was applied to it, then it would tip up. When the load was removed from the end, it would return to its original position. There were a number of nails protruding from the front of the toilet block and I found traces of blood on one of these nails, 1.35 metres from the ground. I made a thorough search of the entire area and found nothing which I could associate with ROONEY's injuries. The entire area is very poorly lit with the only lighting coming from a sign on a wall nearby, if it was on at the time.

4. During my examination I took a number of photographs. I NOW PRODUCE TEN (10) PHOTOGRAPHS numbered '1' to '10' inclusive with captions on the back describing what each one depicts.

EXHIBIT

PHOTOGRAPH '1' A general view of the area looking in a south-eastern direction. The only lighting is from the sign in the top left corner. The roof of the toilet block can be seen in the centre just above the retaining wall.

PHOTOGRAPH '2' A general view looking south showing the gap between the retaining wall and the roof.

PHOTOGRAPH '3' The gate to the yard of the rear of L and B Discounts also the gap between the retaining wall and the toilet block. The fence post can be seen protruding from the roof.

PHOTOGRAPH '4' A general view of the ridge capping and the edge of the retaining wall. The fence post is on the right.

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PHOTOGRAPH '5' A close-up of the end of the ridge capping showing how it was damaged. When tested for blood, a positive reaction was obtained just under the damaged area.

PHOTOGRAPH '6' A general view of the ground between the toilet block and the retaining wall. The protruding nails can be seen.

PHOTOGRAPH '7' A general view of the retaining wall looking west. The toilet block is on the left.

PHOTOGRAPH '8' A general view of the area between the toilet block on the left and the retaining wall on the right looking in a southerly direction.

PHOTOGRAPH '9' The area between the retaining wall and the toilet block looking north. ROONEY was apparently lying with his head near the down pipe with his feet toward the camera.

PHOTOGRAPH '10' The timber fence post wedged between the toilet roof and the guttering of the adjacent roof.

5. After I completed my examination of the scene I went to the Intensive Care Unit of Wollongong Hospital. With the assistance of staff there, I made an examination of the injuries to William Anthony ROONEY. He appeared to have only very slight superficial external injuries on his face and body which were not consistent with an assault victim. His injuries consisted of two small lacerations, one in the centre of his forehead at the hairline and an 'L' shaped laceration to his left thumb. He had a number of small blood blisters on his ribs on his right side and slight bruising inside his right arm adjacent to the blood blisters. He also had a bruise on his right hip. There were

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slight abrasions around the right eye and on his nose. On the inside of his left arm, there was a series of abrasions running lengthwise down his arm and considerable bruising which would be consistent with injuries caused by the top edge of the retaining wall. There were also three verticle red marks on his back. Examination of his legs showed an abrasion on his right knee. Close examination of his neck showed three very faint marks which were slightly curved. These could possibly be consistent with marks caused by fingernails. All ROONEY's nails were bitten down.

EXHIBIT

6. I NOW PRODUCE ELEVEN (11) PHOTOGRAPHS of those injuries numbered '11' to '21' inclusive with captions on the back describing what each one depicts.

PHOTOGRAPH '11' A general view of William Anthony ROONEY.

PHOTOGRAPH '12' The small laceration to his forehead in the hairline.

PHOTOGRAPH '13' The right side of ROONEY's face showing the abrasions around his right eye and to his nose.

PHOTOGRAPH '14' The blood blisters on his right side and the bruising to his hip.

PHOTOGRAPH '15' The bruising inside his right arm. The blood blisters can be seen on his side.

PHOTOGRAPH '16' The 'L' shaped laceration on his right thumb.

PHOTOGRAPH '17' The bruising and abrasions inside the elbow of his left arm.

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PHOTOGRAPH '18' One of the red marks on ROONEY's back can be seen between his sholder blades just below his neck.

PHOTOGRAPH '19' The other two red marks on ROONEY's back just below his right shoulder blade.

PHOTOGRAPH '20' The abrasion to his right knee.

PHOTOGRAPH '21' The slightly curved red marks on ROONEY's neck.

7. On Friday, 21 February, 1986 I went to Wollongong Hospital Mortuary where I saw Doctor Verzosa, the Government Medical Officer, and Constable Tranby. I examined the body of William Anthony ROONEY. I noticed that the abrasions to his face had healed except for the laceration to his forehead. The abrasions on the inside of his left arm were healing and the bruising was still visible. There were faint bruises below his right nipple and the blood blisters on his right side were still visible. The 'L' shaped laceration was still on his right thumb. The abrasion on his right knee had almost healed but there was considerable bruising all over the knee. All other marks and bruises had disappeared. During the post-mortem, a very large haematoma was found between the scalp and skull but there were no external visible signs of it.

EXHIBIT

8. I NOW PRODUCE FOUR (4) PHOTOGRAPHS numbered '22' to '25' with captions on the back showing the remaining injuries.

PHOTOGRAPH '22' ROONEY's face showing the abrasions around his right eye and on his nose had healed. The marks on his neck had also disappeared.

PHOTOGRAPH '23' The bruising under ROONEY's right nipple. The blood blisters can be still seen on his side.

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PHOTOGRAPH '24' The inside of his left arm showing the bruising and the remains of the abrasions.

PHOTOGRAPH '25' The remains of the abrasion on the right knee. The bruising can be seen right over the knee cap.

9. I declare that no part of this statement is untrue to my knowledge. I know that it may be used in legal proceedings. It accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in Court as a witness.

Witness: Signature: